



**Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks**

54078 US Hwy 2 West  
Glasgow, MT 59230

June 3, 2010

Governor's Office – Mike Volesky  
Montana State Library, Helena  
Montana Department of Environmental Quality  
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
    Director's Office  
    Fish and Wildlife Division  
    Parks Division  
    Lands Section  
    Communication & Education Bureau  
    Commission Secretary  
    Legal Unit  
    Environmental Quality Council  
MT Environ. Information Center  
State Historic Preservation Office

Valley County Commissioners  
Valley County Planner  
Montana Audubon Council  
MFWP Commissioner, Willie Doll  
Representative Wayne Stahl  
Bernie Hart  
Carole Brown  
Mix Brothers

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) are proposing to purchase a conservation easement on 164 acres near Hinsdale, Montana from Donna Christensen. The property is located two miles north of Hinsdale on the Milk River.

The proposed easement will conserve and enhance riparian habitats bordering the Milk River, perpetuate agriculture as the principle use of this productive river bottom farm, and maintain public access to this land. Wildlife species commonly observed on this property include white-tailed deer, ring-necked pheasants, Merriam's wild turkeys, mourning doves and a variety of waterfowl. This stretch of the Milk River riparian corridor also supports a rich diversity of songbirds and small mammals. MFWP would like to purchase the easement and implement the easement terms while maintaining the present use of the farm. A rest rotation grazing system will be implemented to maintain and improve wildlife habitat on the property.

The easement terms are generalized in the enclosed Environmental Assessment (EA) and can be accessed at [www.fwp.mt.gov](http://www.fwp.mt.gov). A Management and Grazing Plan, and Socio-Economic Report are also included in this report for your review. Hardcopies are

available if requested by calling (406) 228-3700. The comment period will be open from June 3, 2010 to July 2, 2010. A public meeting will be held in Glasgow at the Valley County Courthouse on June 17, 2010 at 7:00 PM. Please submit any comments that you have by 5:00 P.M., July 2, 2010 to the address listed above, Attn: Cottonwood Bend Conservation Easement. You can also email comments to [jelletson@mt.gov](mailto:jelletson@mt.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patrick Gunderson", followed by a horizontal line.

Patrick Gunderson  
Region Six Supervisor